

CORVUS GLANDARIUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum convexum, cultratum.

Nares pennis setaceis recumbentibus obtectæ.

Lingua cartilaginea, bifida.

Pedes ambulatorii.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 155.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

CORVUS subferrugineus, cauda nigra, tectricibus alarum cæruleo nigroque transversim fasciatis.

CORVUS GLANDARIUS. C. tectricibus alarum cæruleis: lineis transversis albis nigrisque, corpore ferrugineo variegato.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 156.

Corvo glandario conceditur locus in pulcherrimis avibus Europæis. Amat præcipue sylvas et colles arboribus obsitos; vesciturque glande faginea et querna, nec non baccis et frugibus. Interdum etiam aviculas prædatur. Vocem emittit raucam, argutam, stridulam, injucundam; docetur tamen varios sonos, et ipsam etiam vocem humanam imitari. Dicitur, perturbatis nuper et confusis rebus Gallicis, postquam restricta diu eruperat apud omnes

ordines feras venandi licentia, ingentem corvorum glandariorum multitudinem, strepitu insolito et tormentis displosis perterritam, non in interiora se surripuisse, sed litora petiisse proxime opposita; et in oris nonnullis Britannicis conspectas fuisse magnas catervas longo volatu fessas et debilitatas, antequam umbrosos sylvarum recessus contingere potuissent.



R.Y.

THE
COMMON JAY.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, cultrated.

Nostrils covered with recumbent bristly feathers.

Tongue cartilaginous, bifid.

Feet formed for walking.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Subferruginous Crow, with black tail, and wing-coverts transversely barred with black and blue.

The JAY.

Willughb. ornith. p. 130.

Penn. Brit. Zool. 1. No. 19.

The Jay, one of the most beautiful of the European birds, is principally an inhabitant of woody and hilly regions; living on mast, berries, acorns, and fruit: it is also observed sometimes to prey on smaller birds. Its natural note is loud, sharp, and unpleasant; but it may be taught to imitate various sounds, and even that of the human voice itself.

It is said that, during the early period of the French Revolution, when persons of all ranks had suddenly obtained the unlimited power of ranging the woods and forests in quest of game, vast flocks of Jays, terrified by the unusual noise of the guns, flew over to the nearest opposite coasts of England, instead of endeavouring to escape by retreating into other parts of the country; and that on some of our own coasts these birds were observed in vast numbers, seemingly exhausted with fatigue, yet endeavouring to gain the nearest wooded retreats.